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BOROUGH OF TIVERTON.



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1947

BY

GEORGE NICHOLSON

M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health for Tiverton

AND

CHARLES JEFFRIES

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector

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BOROUGH OF TIVERTON.

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For the Year 1947.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
AUTHORITY

(a) *Part time M.O.H.:*

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Isolation Hospital:

T. N. RUDD, M.D., M.R.C.P.

District Medical Officer to Guardians:

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(b) *Sanitary Inspector:*

CHARLES JEFFRIES,

Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.



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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH to the Borough of Tiverton For the year ended 31st December, 1947.

11, ST. PETER STREET,
TIVERTON,

June, 1948.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

Area. Although the Borough covers an area of 17,680 acres, the Town itself covers 300 acres only.

Population. 10,870.

Inhabited Houses. Number in 1947 was 3,122.

Rateable Value is £66,609.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate. £263.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births	Legitimate	213	100	113	Birth Rate : 20·4 per 1000
	Illegitimate	8	7	1	
Still Births		8	3	5	Rate per 1000 Births 36·4
Illegitimate Still Births		Nil.			
Deaths	...	158	80	78	Death Rate : 14·5 per 1000

Deaths from Pregnancy and Childbirth, 0; Puerperal Sepsis 0; other causes 0. The birth rate is the highest for many years.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All infants per 1000 live births ... 41·0.

Legitimate infants per 1000, legitimate live births 36·5

Illegitimate infants, under one year, 1 death.

Deaths from Measles	...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough		...	Nil
„ Diarrhoea	...	...	Nil

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12·0, and the Birth Rate 20·5. The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales was 41 per 1,000 live Births.

Deaths from Cancer: Oesophagus 5, Stomach and Duodenum 2, Other sites 12. Total 19.

One less death from Cancer than last year.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1—NURSING IN THE HOME. No change.

2—There is one Midwife practising in the Area, in addition to the four district nurses.

3—LABORATORY FACILITIES—There are two in the Area—the County Laboratory and that connected with the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

4—HOSPITALS. There are two in the Area. The TIVERTON JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL has proved seriously inadequate owing to the lack of staff which, I am given to understand, is unobtainable.

TIVERTON AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL deals with surgical, medical and maternity cases. There are 50 beds, 11 of which are devoted to maternity cases. Accommodation is very strained at times in all departments and is not really adequate. Maternity cases are regularly refused admission owing to lack of space.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is now held at the above Hospital twice monthly.

5—INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.
None in the Area.

6—AMBULANCE FACILITIES. No change.

7—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES :—

Out-patient departments (under control of the Local Authority)—School Minor Ailments, each morning, 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays, S.M.O. in attendance, 9 to 12 noon.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre. This Centre is open once weekly.

The attendances for 1947 were as follows :—

Total infants attending for first time	...	...	127
„ children, 1 to 5 years, attending for first time	...	...	21
Number on Register at end of year—Mothers	...	...	232
„ „ „ Infants	...	...	199
„ „ „ 1 to 5 years	...	...	33
Number of attendances during 1947—Mothers	...	...	2249
„ „ „ Infants	...	...	1887
„ „ „ 1 to 5 years	...	...	328

The Mothers and Children have had supervision and advice both at the Welfare weekly by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitor, and in their houses by the Health Visitor. Simple treatment has been given where considered sufficient, in other cases the mothers were referred to their private doctor for treatment.

The ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC was held on 50 Tuesdays during the year—12 sessions by the Surgeon and 38 by the after-care Sister.

Number on Register, 1/1/47	..	...	396
„ 31/12/47	...	...	327
Sessions held	...	...	50
New Cases	...	...	223
Discharges	...	...	292
Voluntary Cases on Register, 31/12/47	...	...	134
Admitted to Hospital	...	...	25
Average weekly attendance	...	...	26.1
Number of Attendances	..	...	1308

Admissions :—Adults	...	134
School Age...		61
Infants	...	28

Some of the elder patients have been trained at St. Loye's College for the Disabled, in connection with the Clinic, the aim being the complete rehabilitation of the patients.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

SCABIES. This appears to be diminishing.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION. A regular monthly clinic is held for this purpose and it is well attended, with the result that immunization is maintained in the region of 90 per cent. As a consequence Diphtheria has become a rarity in the Borough.

Since 1938 a total of 2,479 cases have had full immunization. (321 complete cases in Borough in year).

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality in 1947.

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5	1							
10								
15	1	1						
20		1				1		
25	2	2						
35	1		1				1	
45	1	3						
55	1				1			
65 and over								
Totals	7	7	1		1	1	1	

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Sonne Dysentry
Under 1 year						7	3	
1 to 3						34		
3 to 5	1					44		
5 to 10	7					85	1	1
10 to 15	2			1		7		2
15 to 25						1		
25 to 40								1
40 to 65						1		
65 and over								2
Age Unknown						2		
Totals	10			1		181	4	6

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925). No action taken.

Public Health Act, 1925. No action taken.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE NICHOLSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

to the Borough of Tiverton

1st January to 31st December, 1947.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

TOWN HALL, TIVERTON.

August 4th, 1948.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF TIVERTON.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this, my second Annual Report on the work carried out in my department during the year ended 31st December, 1947.

The limitation of building has rendered any systematic reconditioning and clearance under the Housing Acts impossible, but many individual premises have been reconditioned as a result of action taken under the Housing Acts and considerable work has been accomplished in the abatement of nuisances.

Applications for the tenancy of Council Houses continue to pour in and there are now approximately 500 applications on the Council's register.

The inspection and preparation of reports on farms and dairy premises continues to make considerable demands on my time, and work of improving unsatisfactory cow-sheds, farm water supplies and drainage has progressed.

Finally, the daily routine duties in connection with Meat Inspection at the Council's Abattoir, condemnation of unsound food, sampling of water supplies and ice cream, have been duly carried out.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY. The Public main water supplies of the district have been satisfactory both in quantity and quality, and regular samples have been taken and analysed at monthly intervals. The Allers supply is filtered and chlorinated and the Warnicombe supply chlorinated.

RESULTS OF SAMPLING. PUBLIC MAIN SUPPLIES.

Source of Supply	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Allers	9	9	0
Warnicombe	20	18	2
Farms and other premises	32	15	17

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. Regular collections of refuse and salvage have been maintained.

	SALVAGE			KITCHEN WASTE		
	tons	cwts.	qrs.	tons	cwts.	qrs.
January	6	0	0	5	15	0
February	7	0	3	4	3	2
March	6	7	0	4	4	0
April	5	11	0	5	0	0
May	4	15	0	6	6	0
June	7	6	0	7	2	0
July	6	15	0	4	18	0
August	7	4	0	8	18	0
September	6	9	0	8	19	0
October	6	15	0	8	1	0
November	4	0	0	5	16	0
December	6	0	0	5	15	0
TOTALS	74	2	3	74	17	2

Inspection and Supervision of Meat and Foods.

209 Visits of Inspection were made to the Council's Abattoir for the purpose of Meat Inspection.

The following table shows the numbers of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir during the year:—

Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Private Pigs.
502	1266	3421	11	151

This makes a total of 5,351 animals examined during the year.

The following is a list of the meat and offal condemned as diseased or unsound:—

BEEF.

No. of Carcases.	Disease.	Weight. lbs.
17	Generalised T.B.	7728
2	T.B. and Emaciation	727
1	Acute Fever	47 ¹
2	Fever and Pneumonia	535
2	T.B., Dropsy and Emaciation	760
1	Dropsy and Local Suppuration	446
1	Emaciation and Inflammation	331
2	Fevered Flesh and Injuries	701
2	Dropsy and Fever	777
1	Emaciation and Dropsy	332
1	Emaciation and Disease	387
32		13195 lbs.

Parts of Carcases.	Disease.	Weight lbs.
5 Hind-quarters	T.B.	408
1 Fore-quarer	Deep Bruising	46
2 Fore quarters	T.B.	330
Trimming	T.B.	46
Hind-quarters	Injuries	159
Part Hind-quarter	Injuries	20
2 Flanks	Inflammation	24
		1033 lbs.

	Disease	Weight lbs.
OFFAL.	T.B.	2749
	Various	444 ¹
		7190 lbs.

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Total Weight of BEEF Condemned	6	7	0	4
Total Weight of BEEF OFFAL ,,	3	4	0	22

CALVES.

No. of Carcases	Disease.	Weight lbs.
8	Umbilical Pyæmia	477
4	Impartially Bled	131
2	Inflammation	132
1	Inflammation and Pericarditis	55
1	Inflammation and Dropsy	26
1	Immature	23
1	Joint Ill	30
1	Deep and Extensive Bruising	98
		972 lbs.

Parts of Carcases	Disease.	Weight lbs.
1 Leg of Veal	Injury and Local Suppuration	7
1 Hind Leg of Veal	Abscesses	11
		18

OFFAL.	T.B.	2
	Various	196
		198

	cwts.	qrs.	lbs
Total Weight of VEAL Condemned	8	3	10
Total Weight of CALVES' OFFAL Condemned	1	3	2

SHEEP.

No. of Carcases	Disease	Weight lbs.
1	Dropsy and Jaundice	54
5	Emaciation and Jaundice	181
2	Gangrenous Pneumonia	86
12	Emaciation and Dropsy	414
12	Insufficiency of Bleeding	573
5	Inflammation	194
6	Anæmia and Dropsy	285
3	Emaciation and Anæmia	89
3	Inflammation and Dropsy	162
1	Pyæmia	44
1	Insufficient Bleeding and Pneumonia	62
1	Umbilical Pyæmia	15
1	Jaundice	46
1	Jaundice and Gangrenous Pneumonia	33
4	Septic Metritis	217
1	Acute Septic Mammitis	53
1	Inflammation and Injury	19
1	Inflammation and Decomposition	34
2	Emaciation, Dropsy and Ulcers	79
1	Emaciation and Inflammation	47
1	Emaciation and Deep Bruising	49
1	Fevered Flesh	32
1	Moribund	57
		2825 lbs.

Parts of Carcases	Disease	Weight lbs.
3 Fore-quarters	Pneumonia and Adhesions	31
3 Hind-qrs and Part	Injury	31
2 Fore-quarters	Abscesses	33
2 Hind-quarters	Extensive Bruising	59
1 Pair Fore-quarters	Injury and Bruising	52
3 Pairs Hind-quarters	Inflammation	100
2 Fore-quarters	Ulcers	32
Part of Hind-quarter	Pleurisy	30
		368 lbs.

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Total Weight of MUTTON Condemned	1	8	2	1
Total Weight of SHEEP OFFAL ,,	1	0	0	20

PIGS.

No. of Carcases	Disease	Weight lbs.
1	General T.B.	269
1	Inflammation	176
1	Acute Erysipelas	113
		558 lbs.

Parts of Carcases	Disease	
1 Head and Hind-quarter	T.B.	93
1 Head	Cancer	22
1 Leg	Injury	5
1 Hind Leg	Broken	6
		126 lbs.

OFFAL.	T.B.	18
	Various	21
		39 lbs.

Total Weight of PORK Condemned	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
	6	0	12
Total Weight of PIGS' OFFAL Condemned		1	11

UN SOUND FOOD. 81 visits were made to Food Premises in connection with the condemnation of Unsound Food. The following is a list of food condemned:—

Description	Weight lbs.	Description	Weight lbs.
Beef	307	Tinned Stewed Steak	39
Beef Trimmings	30	„ Vegetables	144
Black Puddings	19	„ Fruit Cocktail	22
Tinned Fruit	162	„ Bacon	16
„ Tomatoes	52	Bacon	27
„ Evap. Milk	178	Tinned Steak Pudding	1
„ Cond. Milk	5	„ M. & V. Ration	1
„ Dried Milk	15½	Prunes	326
„ Fish	112	Tinned Irish Stew	4
„ Peas	31	Mutton	88
„ Jam	122	Lunch Meat	4
„ Baked Beans	55	Fish Cakes	17
„ Soup	70	Sauce	½

UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED (Continued):—

Description	Weight lbs.	Description	Weight lbs.
Oats	2	Meat Paste	$\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned Chopped Ham	9	Tea	1
„ Sausage	41	Scotch Broth	1
Wet Fish	1725	Tinned Spam	1
Pickled Onions	16	„ Beef Loaf	2
„ Cabbage	2	Sugar	5
Dried Parsnips	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Tinned Golden Syrup	11
Kidneys	1	„ Tongue	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Corned Beef	23	Fruit Cake	$6\frac{1}{2}$
Macaroni	1	Salad Dressing	200
Cheese	12	Tomatoes	26
White Pudding	9	Chicken	44
Butter	$10\frac{1}{2}$	Hors d'œuvres	$\frac{1}{2}$

Total Weight of Food Condemned—

1 ton, 15 cwts., 3 qrs., 3 lbs.

Housing Inspection.

A total of 153 houses were inspected in connection with the Council's Points Scheme for the letting of Council Houses, and the information regarding the condition of the properties so gained should prove most valuable in future housing inspection work required by the Housing Acts.

Inspections	...	153
Re-visits	...	83
Requisitioning	...	8

ICE CREAM.

No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
14	5	9

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Factories Act	...	...	20
Food Shops	...	...	96
Slaughterhouse	...	...	209
Farms and Dairies	...	...	81
Re-visits following Complaints	...	...	230

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS (Continued):—

Water Samples taken—			
Public Mains ...	...	...	29
Other Premises and Farms	...	...	39
Drainage Inspections	...	...	165
Drains Tested	...	...	15
Rodent Control	...	...	41
Council's Points Scheme—			
Inspections	...	...	167
Re-inspections	...	...	83
Requisitioning	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	277
Caravans Inspected	...	...	10
Requisitioning	...	...	3
Petroleum Licence	...	...	4
Sewerage	...	...	7
Ice Cream	...	...	7
Samples taken	...	...	14
Shops Act	...	...	227
Total Visits			1732

FACTORIES IN DETAIL.

Inspection various	...	...	...	4
Well Water Supply unfit for use	...	...	...	1
Advised on provision of Sanitary Accommodation and Drainage	...	...	...	1
Breach of Sanitary Regulations (remedy under consideration)	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ (Owners agreed to remedy)	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ (Suggestions for remedy reported to Town Clerk)	...	...	...	1
Work required by notice (completed)	...	...	...	1
Following complaint, advice on necessary addition	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	3
Fire Escape facilities	...	...	...	6
Total				20

SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

House roofs repaired and made watertight	18
Eaves, gutters, etc., repaired and renewed	10
Damp walls remedied	20
External plastering repaired	9
Chimney stacks repaired, etc.	4
Ceilings repaired	16
Plaster walls repaired	9
Windows repaired	6
Floors repaired	12
Kitchen stoves repaired	1
Walls repaired or rebuilt	7
Accumulations of refuse removed	4
Yards repaired	2
Sewers	1
Staircase repaired	1
Washing facilities	5
Drainage improved	24

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Water Closets and Basins provided ...	36
Cisterns replaced	3
Seats replaced	9
Other defects remedied	11

Rodent Control.

Two maintenance treatments to the Council's Sewer have been carried out during the year and the infestation is now confined to a comparatively small area. As a result of the success of these treatments the number of surface infestations in connection with defective drainage systems have been reduced to a minimum. Systematic treatment to the Council's Refuse Tip, Ashley, Salvage Depot and Sewage Disposal Works have reduced these to very minor infestations.

In conclusion, so successful has been our work in this connection that it is becoming increasingly difficult to fill in the Operator's time and much of his time has therefore necessarily to be spent in search.

I remain, Your Obedient Servant,

CHARLES JEFFRIES, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,
Borough Sanitary Inspector.

